

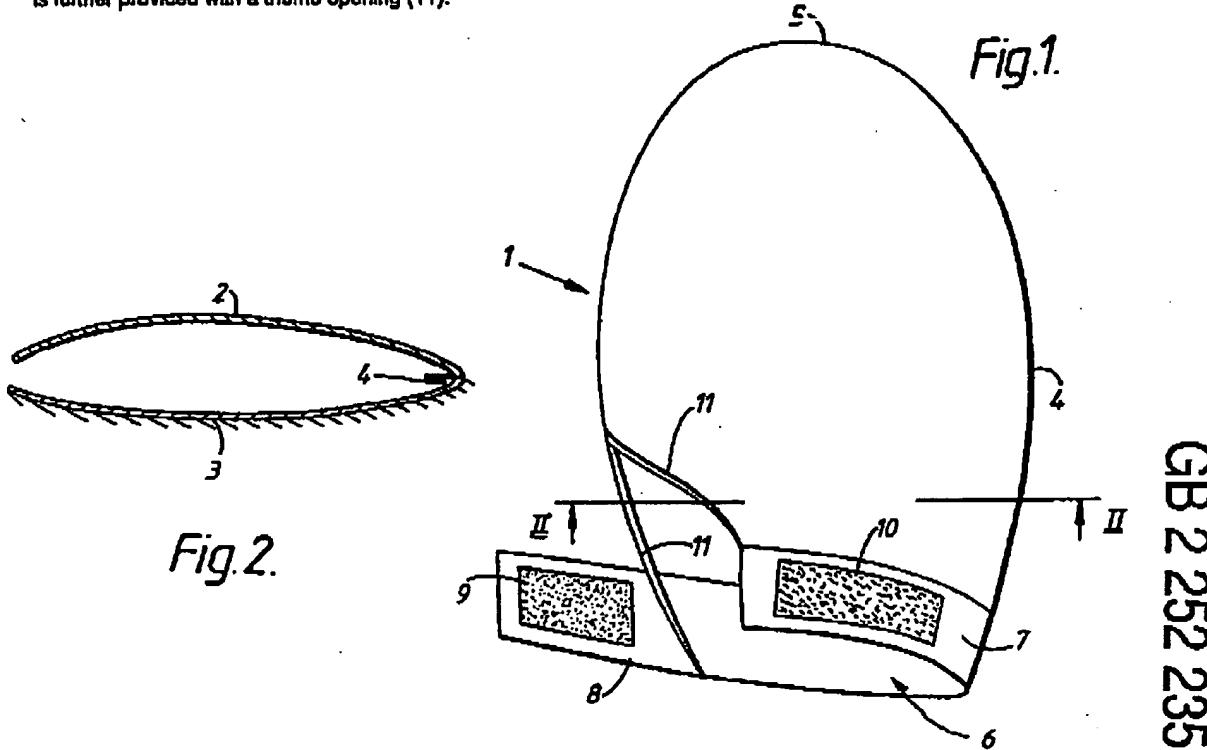
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(54) Grooming aid

(57) An animal coat, pet or feather grooming means comprises a glove or mitten (1), one major surface (2) of the glove (1) being of a material like chamois leather, with the second major surface (3) of the glove (1) being of a material like velvet. The two different surfaces of the glove thus enable separate grooming operations to be carried out. The glove or mitten (1) is further provided with a thumb opening (11).



At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

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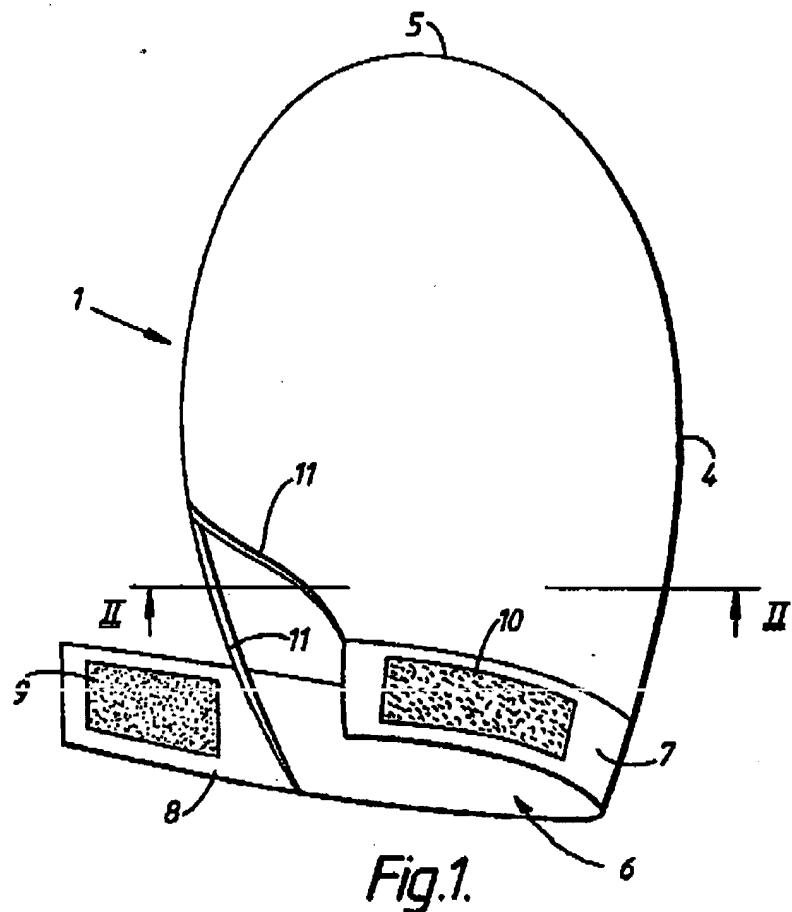


Fig.1.

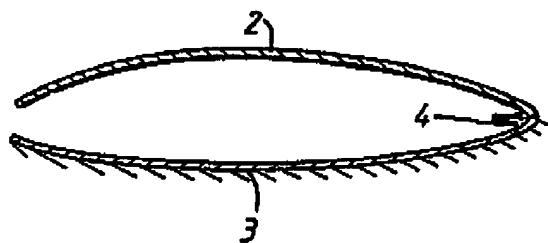


Fig.2.

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GROOMING AID

This invention relates to articles for grooming fur, hair, or other similar materials.

The invention relates in particular to the grooming of the fur/hair of both live animals and of the pelts of such animals.

Fur/hair (hereinafter referred to as the coat) of animals can, in a very general manner be regarded as comprising a multitude of regularly, or irregularly spaced individual hairs projecting from the skin of the animal. Such skin is as is well known flexible in all directions.

It is also well known that for most animals their coat have a natural lay, that is a tendency for all of the individual hairs of the coat to have a preferred rest direction in which the individual hairs extend from the skin.

This preferred lay usually varies according to the part of the body involved.

In detail, the nature of the lay of the coat will differ in detail from animal to animal, and as a result the acceptable grooming of animals such as, for example, cats, dogs, etc., effectively becomes an individual matter for each type thereof. The factors giving rise to the above mentioned acceptable grooming can be conveniently considered as stemming from the fact that many owners of domestic animals such as cats, dogs, hamsters, mice, etc., take considerable pride in the grooming of their animals

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for a variety of reasons, and especially those owners who are interested in the showing of their animals in a competitive manner at shows dedicated to the particular animals in which they are interested for the purposes of 5 publically comparing the 'quality/appearance' of their animal(s) with those of other persons. Shows showing is not infrequently for the purposes of competing for awards/honours.

In particular, the showing of animals for competitive 10 purposes has become extremely widespread and, in practice, has resulted in the establishment of many rules and regulations relating to the standards to be achieved in the show presentation of the animals both in the respect of the physical form of the animal, and also in relation to the 15 physical condition and appearance of the coat of the animals.

In attempting to achieve such standards it has become common practice to give great attention to the grooming of the coats of the animals involved.

Generally, the grooming of an animal's coat can be regarded 20 as a two stage operation. A first stage in which the coat is initially smoothed so that as far as possible the hair at all areas/regions of the coat has been restored to the correct 'lay', and a second stage in which the correctly 25 laid hair is effectively 'polished/burnished' to bring out the natural sheen/gloss of the coat.

For this purpose, a wide variety of coat grooming materials and articles has been proposed for the purposes of grooming animals.

It is an object of the present invention to provide means 30 facilitating grooming processes.

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According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided animal coat/pelt grooming means, wherein the grooming means is of such construction as to enable the selective execution of two distinct phases in grooming processes.

5

A further aspect of the invention provides an animal coat/pelt grooming means including a hand holdable construction which is capable of being held in one or the other of two user positions, each such position relating to
10 a particular grooming operation that it is required to effect.

In accordance with a still further aspect of the invention there is provided an animal coat/pelt grooming means including a glove/mitten presenting on one major surface thereof a material enabling a first grooming operation, and on a second major surface thereof a material enabling a second grooming operation.

15
20 Preferably, the glove/mitten has said one major surface formed from chamois leather or other soft leather or the like, whilst the other major surface is formed from velvet or a material with a surface presenting velvet-like characteristics.

Conveniently, the mitten is constructed in such manner that a user's thumb can project externally of the mitten.

25 Preferably, the mitten includes two major surfaces of different materials, and wherein the two surfaces are firmly joined together along their marginal edges by stitching or other convenient means so as to provide a construction closed at one end to form a 'fingers end' 30 thereof and open at the other end to provide the 'wrist

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end', and wherein the surfaces at said 'wrist end' are attached to an elasticated wrist band which provides at one end a projecting strap-like length whose, inner surface is provided with an region affording one part of a hook and loop attachment system of which the other part is provided as a corresponding region on the outer surface of the wrist band.

Conveniently, the glove/mitten has said one major surface formed from chamois leather or other soft leather or the like, whilst the other major surface is formed from velvet or a material with a surface presenting velvet-like characteristics.

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how to carry the same into effect reference will now be made to the accompanying drawing in which:-

Figure 1 is a very schematic perspective representation of a mitten incorporating the concepts of the invention.; and

Figure 2 is a transverse section along the line II-II of Figure 1.

Referring now to the drawings the mitten 1 shown therein includes a first major surface 2 which generally conforms in shape to a hand whose fingers are held close together. The mitten 1 is formed from a soft leather, preferably chamois leather or a material exhibiting similar characteristics and includes a second similarly shaped surface 3 which is formed from velvet or a material exhibiting similar characteristics.

The two surfaces 2 and 3 are firmly joined together along their marginal edges 4 by stitching or other convenient means so as to provide a construction closed at one end 5

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to form the 'fingers end' thereof and open at the other end to provide the 'wrist end' thereof 6. The surfaces 2 and 3 at said open end 6 are attached to an elasticated wrist band 7 which provides at one end a projecting strap-like length 8, The inner surface of the strap-like length 8 is provided with an region 9 affording one part of a hook and loop attachment system of which the other part is provided as a corresponding region 10 on the outer surface of the wrist band 7. A convenient form of the hook and loop attachment system is known under the Registered Trade Mark VELCRO.

As will be noted from the drawings a short length 11 of the two surfaces 2 and 3 leading from the wrist band is left unstitched so as to provide when the wrist band is closed 15 an opening through which the user's thumb can project.

It will be appreciated that those free edge regions of the surfaces 2 and 3 that provide the thumb opening will be suitably hemmed.

As will be noted that the invention in one form provides a 20 mitten construction which can be engaged by either hand so that it can be used by left or right handed persons; can be used with either of the surfaces 2 and 3 facing towards the user's palm, and can be used with or without the thumb projecting from the mitten.

25 In use, the user's hand is engaged into the mitten and the wrist band 7 is tightened to provide a comfortable fit.

Depending upon the particular grooming stage it is desired to effect the chamois leather or the velvet can be placed adjacent to the user's palm.

30 To use the mitten of the invention for grooming it is

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merely necessary to wipe the selected side of the mitten i.e., leather or velvet against the animal coat to be groomed.

It will be appreciated that whilst the foregoing discussion
5 has been specifically directed towards the grooming of animal coats the use of the article of the invention is not so restricted and can be used in situations where a double polishing/burnishing facility is desired. One such possibility could be the grooming of a bird's feathers
10 etc. In the circumstances the term 'animal' is intended to embrace such utilisation possibilities.

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CLAIMS

1. Animal coat/pelt grooming means, wherein the grooming means is of such construction as to enable the selective execution of two distinct phases in grooming processes.

5 2. Animal coat/pelt grooming means including a hand holdable construction which is capable of being held in one or the other of two user positions, each such position relating to a particular grooming operation that it is required to effect.

10 3. Animal coat/pelt grooming means including a glove/mitten presenting on one major surface thereof a material enabling a first grooming operation, and on a second major surface thereof a material enabling a second grooming operation.

15 4. Animal coat/pelt grooming means as claimed in claim 3, and wherein the glove/mitten has said one major surface formed from chamois leather or other soft leather or the like, whilst the other major surface is formed from velvet or a material with a surface presenting velvet-like
20 characteristics.

4. Animal coat/pelt grooming means as claimed in claim 3 or 4, and wherein, the mitten is constructed in such manner that a user's thumb can project externally of the mitten.

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6. Animal coat/pelt grooming means as claimed in claim
3,4 or 5, and wherein the mitten includes two major
surfaces of different materials, and wherein the two
surfaces are firmly joined together along their marginal
5 edges by stitching or other convenient means so as to
provide a construction closed at one end to form a 'fingers
end' thereof and open at the other end to provide the
'wrist end', and wherein the surfaces at said 'wrist end'
are attached to an elasticated wrist band which provides at
10 one end a projecting strap-like length whose, inner surface
is provided with an region affording one part of a hook and
loop attachment system of which the other part is provided
as a corresponding region on the outer surface of the wrist
band.

15 7. Animal coat/pelt grooming means as claimed in claim
3,4 5,or 6, and wherein a short length of the two surfaces
leading from the wrist band is left unstitched so as to
provide ,when the wrist band is closed, an opening through
which the user's thumb can project.

20 8. Animal coat/pelt grooming means as claimed in claim
3,4 or 5, and wherein one of said surfaces comprises velvet
or a material exhibiting similar characteristics, and the
other of said surfaces comprises chamois leather or aother
material exhibiting similar characteristics.

25 9. Animalcoat/pelt grooming means constructed as
hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying
drawings.

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Patents Act 1977 Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17 (The Search Report)		Application number 9127118.9
Relevant Technical fields		Search Examiner
(i) UK CI (Edition X) A4K (KCA, KCB)		MRS C L DAVIES
(ii) Int CI (Edition 5) A01K, A46B, A47K, A47L		
Databases (see over)		Date of Search
(i) UK Patent Office		12 MARCH 1992
(ii) ONLINE DATABASE: WPI		

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims 1-9

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	WO 89/02717 (KLOTZ) See Figures	1,2,3,4, 8
X	FR 2333482 (ALLEMAND) See Figures and Claim 1	1,2,3,5
X	US 5010617 (NELSON) See Figures and column 2 lines 35-53	1,2,3,4, 5,6,8
X	US 4893955 (ZIELINSKI) See Figure 1	1,2,3,5
X	US 4687095 (SHOICHI) See Figure 2	1,2
X	US 4670930 (PO-MING) See Figures	1,2,3,4, 8
X	US 3982298 (OTA) See Figures; column 2 lines 1-2 and 44-47	1,2,3,4, 8

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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

Categories of documents**X:** Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.**Y:** Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.**A:** Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.**P:** Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.**E:** Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.**&** Member of the same patent family, corresponding document.

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).